



Ecclesia and Synagoga (Church and Synagogue), statues from Strasbourg Cathedral

When Religion Runs Off the Rails

Rev. Steven Epperson

March 18, 2018

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER



At the front of the church you will find unlit candles. You are welcome to light a candle in remembrance, in gratitude, in prayer, in celebration.

*The prelude helps to create a spirit for shared celebration and worship.
Please refrain from conversing and please turn off your cell phones.*



Warm Welcome!

Please visit our Visitors' Table in the Sanctuary foyer and get a nametag. Drop by the Welcome Table in Hewett Centre after the service and stay for coffee or tea and friendly conversation. Learn about our congregation. Look for people wearing yellow nametags, who are welcoming you today.

The Presence of Children is a Gift to the Church. Welcome!

If you are a new family visiting with children or babies please fill out a Children's Program visitor card at the Welcome Table so Kiersten Moore, our Director of Religious Exploration, can be in touch with you about our children, youth, and family programs.

Most Sundays, everyone begins the morning together in the Sanctuary for the first 10-15 minutes. We provide multi-age programming and special workshops for children ages 2-12 from 11:15-12:15. Community building, exploring traditions and values, questioning, and wondering are our goals. Babies and young toddlers may join us or stay with you in the Sanctuary.

Buddy Bags with a small stuffie, themed colouring book, and crayons are available in the foyer for use during the service. Please return them to the basket at the end; you may keep the colouring book. There is also a playroom for family use across from the kitchen in Hewett Centre.

<p>The seats in the rear of the church are <i>reserved</i>: (when facing the front) left side for those needing to slip in and out of the service, and right side for persons in wheelchairs & strollers.</p>
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The UCV Campus is a non-smoking environment.

TODAY AT UCV

After the Story we sing our children off to their Explorations in Hewett Centre:

- **Spirit Play meets downstairs in the Channing Room** (south end) until 12:15. **All visitors and children ages 0-12** are welcome to join this multi-age program centered around community, ritual, and story. Explorations are centered around the Seven Principles and Sources of Unitarian Universalism. Each Sunday starts with a story and moves into art, building, action, and garden activities.
- **Our Whole Lives** sexuality education for ages 9 & 10 meets today downstairs in the Parker Room (downstairs-center) until 12:30pm. These workshops meet twice a month and are restricted to

registered participants.

- **Coming of Age** meets in Hitschmanova until 12:30. This is a year-long mentorship and spirituality exploration program for children ages 11-14 and is restricted to registered participants.
- **Children and babies** are always welcome to remain with their family or responsible adult throughout the service if they prefer. The service can also be heard in the foyer and in Hewett Hall where a playroom is open for family use.

Nursing parents are welcome in any part of our buildings, if you wish for more privacy there is a comfy chair and a rocking chair in the Hewett Hall playroom.

After the Service children age 9 and older will be released to join their family in the main Hall when their class is over. **Children age 8 and younger** must be met at their classroom door and signed out by a responsible adult.

MEDITATION: Join us for the Sunday morning sitting meditation at 10 – 10:45 am in the Family Room. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. Inquiries: victoriaoginski@gmail.com

FORUM: 12:30 pm, Fireside Room. *Upcoming CUC Meeting*. The Board of Trustees will discuss issues and delegates for the upcoming CUC meeting in Hamilton.

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE is meeting today in Biddle at 12:30. Interested or curious to hear what is going on? Come by and check out what we are doing within the church, around town, and beyond!

LUNCH TODAY: Love Soup is today! Please come and enjoy our delicious hot soups, fresh salad, dessert & loaves of Terra Bread (as available) in our happy, friendly dining room in Hewett Centre. Your support and help is greatly appreciated! — Amy & the Love Soup Crew.

NEW SERMON DISCUSSIONS: Inviting newcomers and regulars to share your thoughts, feelings and questions about today's service. Grab a coffee or lunch and join us for an informal discussion at 12:15 – 1 pm in the Priestley room. *Sheila* (R), Connect & Engage Committee.

ART EXHIBITION: *Elemental Journeys*, Joanne Brown, printmaker, will show her Four Elements series. Jackie Conradi-Robertson's acrylic paintings are inspired by nature scenes either here at home or in her travels. Mary Bennett's mixed-media pieces explore materiality through colour, texture, and layers.

SOS – SAVE OUR SALMON: Open net fish farms do serious harm to our wild salmon. Fishing farming is banned in Alaska and Washington State. BC needs to ban them as well. Visit our table in Hewett Hall to write your MLA to NOT renew the 22 open net fish farm leases that come due this June. Information, templates, and all supplies provided.

OSTARA/SPRING EQUINOX CIRCLE DANCE: After the service join us for an Ostara/ Spring Equinox circle dance and ritual on the stage in the Sanctuary. Coordinator: Mary Bennett. No experience or partners needed. You are free to come and sit out dances if you wish.

Celebration of Worship: March 18, 2018

Prelude	<i>Prelude 21 ('Quasi Fantasia')</i> <i>My Heart Ever Faithful (Pentecost Cantata)</i> <i>Menuets 1, 2 (Cello Suite #1)</i>	Bach Bach Bach E. Dainow, piano
Invocation	<i>Ubi Caritas*</i>	From Taizé With the Chalice Choir
Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours		Rev. Steven Epperson
Kindling the Chalice Flame		Rev. Steven Epperson
Opening Hymn #360		<i>Here We Have Gathered</i>
Story for All Ages		Read by Rev. Steven Epperson
Welcome and Announcements		Ursula Litzcke
Reading from the Book of Celebrations and Concerns		Ursula Litzcke
Offering: <i>We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.</i>	<i>I Ain't Afraid</i>	Holly Near / arr. Steve Malloy; E. Dainow E. Dainow, piano & vocals
Meditation – Spoken, then Silent		Rev. Steven Epperson
Musical Response	<i>All the Diamonds</i>	By B. Cockburn arr. L. Nickel; with the Chalice Choir
Homily		When Religion Runs Off the Rails Rev. Steven Epperson
Closing Hymn #326		<i>Let All the Beauty We Have Known</i>
Closing Words		Rev. Steven Epperson
Extinguishing the Chalice Flame		Rev. Steven Epperson
Valediction	<i>Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again. (x2)</i>	

* *Where charity and love are, God is there*

Next Sunday Service: March 25, 2018

Intergenerational Solidarity and Us

Rev. Steven Epperson

UPCOMING UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

For those of you who have not heard the sad news, the beloved Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett, died Saturday, February 24, 2018. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held in the UCV Sanctuary Friday, March 23rd, beginning at 1:30 pm. A reception will follow. - Rev. Steven Epperson

METRO VANCOUVER UNITARIAN GATHERING: 9am to 9pm at UCV. Doors at 8:30 am. Our 4 local congregations are strengthening inter-generational solidarity, networking on social action and singing with Unitarian singer/songwriter, Tony Turner. See website for full details. Registration is completely online this year at: <http://cuc.ca/metro-vancouver-unitarian-gathering>. Volunteers are needed for greeting, serving meals and cleaning up. Please phone Jeannie Corsi on [604-224-1040](tel:604-224-1040) if you are able to help in any way. For questions, contact Leslie Kemp on [604-818-5869](tel:604-818-5869).

BE A PART OF UCV'S VANCOUVER RAIN WALK TEAM: Register online to participate in Inspire Health's Rain 5k Walk fundrai\$er Saturday, March 24th, 9 am to noon, taking place at Olympic Village – family-friendly – all fitness levels. Join Caede Pungente - show your support for our UCV community.

BOOK BASH: UCV is holding its semi-annual Book Bash on Sunday, March 25, from 9am to 1pm. A large selection of (good condition) second-hand books, including titles on gardening, psychology, religion, history, children's books, mysteries, Canadian and world fiction, and much more. Books are priced to sell with the majority being \$1 - \$3. Contact: David Buchanan, 603-419-5199.

NEXT WEEK'S FORUM: The three artists exhibiting their work all have a background in art for children. Jackie Conradi-Robertson, Joanne Brown and Mary Bennett will talk about "*Art for Kids and Kid-Art for Adults*".

MOVABLE FEAST: Saturday, March 31. The March Movable feast will be at Heirloom Vegetarian Restaurant, 1509 West 12th at Granville, heirloomrestaurant.ca. We meet at 6:00 pm. Wheelchair accessible at separate entrance. RSVP To Dianne Crosbie, dcrosbie@uniserve.com

PASSOVER SEDER/DINNER: UCV family Passover Seder—Friday, Apr. 6, 2018, 5:30 pm Hewett Centre. Potluck supper and celebration of the story of Passover. Register at <https://unitarian-passover-seder.eventbrite.ca>.

THE UCV 2ND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB will meet April 8th, 12:30 pm in Biddle to discuss Thomas King's *The Back of the Turtle*, an environmental fable for our time, set largely on the west coast of Vancouver Island, told with King's characteristic humour.

MYSTERY PALS: April 8 – May 6. Sign-up by April 1st to be a Pal to someone older or younger than yourself—Knowing each other helps create a safe and connected community—this is a chance to bridge generation gaps between those who might not meet on a regular Sunday. More information and sign up forms are on the bulletin boards and welcome table or email Kiersten at dre@vancouverunitarians.ca or visit the UCV website: <http://vancouverunitarians.ca/mystery-pals/>

NEW TO UCV WORKSHOP: Everything you wanted to know about Unitarianism and UCV but were afraid to ask. Join us for this one-day workshop, **Saturday, April 14, 9:15 am – 2:30 pm, Fireside Room.** Coffee and muffins, 9:00 am, lunch provided. Attendance encouraged prior to becoming a UCV member. Interested current members also welcome. Registration forms available at the Welcome Table or church office, babysitting requests 2 weeks in advance. Questions, contact Dianne Crosbie at dcrosbie@uniserve.com or the church office at 604-261-7204.

DESIGNING AND LEADING RITES OF PASSAGE: Basic Training, April 27 – 29. CUC is offering at UCV a basic training weekend for new Lay Chaplains and anyone interested: <http://cuc.ca/event/designing-leading-rites-passage-basic-training-lay-chaplains-3> for more information, please contact Naomi Taylor: naomitaylor7@gmail.com or Katherine Roback: katherinekrobback@gmail.com

SACRED CIRCLE DANCING IN APRIL: We will have two visiting teachers, Barbara Herring from Ontario and Rosie Turnbull from Findhorn, Scotland in April. Contact circledanceucv@gmail.com if you want further details.

STANLEY TROMP (the author of the booklet on Rev. Hewett) might – if there is enough interest – plan a second, separate and informal memorial event for Phillip Hewett. This could take place on a day before or after the March 23 service, and could be a dinner or other option, with attendees speaking for 5 minutes or so. For info, please call Stanley at 604-733-7595. stromp@telus.net

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE The library committee is looking for someone to sign out books in the library on the second Sunday of the month. This is a wonderful way to meet people and learn more about the library collection. Contact David at davidfbuchanan@gmail.com.

THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE is looking for 1 - 2 people to join our committee. Help us create a positive, healthy work environment for our UCV staff. Contact Sheila Resels, chair of HR, at sresels@gmail.com for further information.

CASUAL CARETAKER OPPORTUNITY: UCV is in need of a casual Caretaker to help maintain our beautiful campus and to assist the many individuals and community groups who make use of our rental spaces. Previous caretaking or custodial experience is an asset but not necessarily required. Must be available to work evenings and weekends. This is an ideal opportunity for students or for

those looking for a source of supplemental income. Hours vary with rental space usage. If interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Marcus at marcus@vancouverunitarians.ca.

KIDS TAKEOVER UCV: Inspired by the recent Kids Takeover UBC, we are beginning to plan for a Kids Takeover day (or week? Or month?) at UCV. Share your ideas on the RE bulletin board or send to kidstakeoverucv@gmail.com. See article on web for more information. Supported by Arts Committee.

SMARTPHONE NEEDED: Our church Administration and Children's Program would like to be able to accept onsite electronic donations for events and services with a WiFi-enabled smartphone. Please contact the office if you have a potential donation, please do not drop any electronic off without speaking to one of us. Thank you!

THE CONNECT & ENGAGE COMMITTEE is looking for volunteers to facilitate informal conversation amongst newcomers (& regulars). The topic is the Sunday sermon. Our weekly *Sermon Discussions* are from 12:15 to approximately 1 pm. This only requires that you sign up for *one session per year*. If you'd like to join the team, contact Sheila at sresels@gmail.com.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND: The Outreach Opportunities Fund will be collecting for the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS), from February to May. CLAS provides legal assistance in BC to people with problems in the areas of workers' rights, income security, housing, mental health and human rights.

OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FARMERS ON 57TH GROW YOUR OWN FOOD COURSE: Starts Thursday March 29th. Costs \$300 and comes with a 4' X 6' instructional plot, all the tools and supplies you'll need and 12 instructional sessions every 2nd Thursday, 6:30-8pm. Urban farmers Karen & Jess guide you through every step of the season from soil prep, seed starting to crop maintenance and harvesting. Eat what you grow! Find more details at www.farmerson57th.ca.

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

Eric Chen

FLOWERS

Diane Donaldson

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Frances Anderson, David Buchanan

SOUND

Kaelyn Elfert

LUNCH

Love Soup!

GREETERS

Jane Sutherland, Shirley McLeod, Carolyn Grant, Denise Nereida

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Brock MacLachlan, Philomene Jahnke

CARETAKER(S)

Paul Nash

The red pulpit hanging in the Sanctuary is a gift from our partner church in Brasso, Romania.



Our Vision

Because we envision a more compassionate world, we seek to deepen our spiritual and religious lives, grow and enrich our congregation, and advocate for love and justice.

Living Our Vision

As Unitarians, we are dedicated to spiritual growth, social justice, and reverence for nature and all life. We embody these values through worship, ethical action, artistic expression, and religious education for all ages that aim to connect hearts, heads, and hands. Our congregation welcomes all ages, orientations, abilities, and identities in our joyous search for meaning.

MINISTER AND STAFF

PARISH MINISTER

Rev. Steven Epperson

COMMUNITY MINISTER

Rev. Laura Imayoshi

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kiersten Moore

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Donna Brown

MUSIC ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER

Elliott Dainow

CASUAL CARETAKERS

Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Igor Santizo,
Ken Godmere, Ahmed Walwail, Edgar Silveira

RE STAFF

Doug Ennenberg, Olivia Hall, Julie Worden,

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Jannika Nyberg

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE

Aurora Eyolfson

BOOKKEEPER

Marcus Hynes

LAY CHAPLAINS

Collene Harris

Nan Gregory, Louise Bunn

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Facebook: facebook.com/vancouverunitarians.ca

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ucvevents@gmail.com Please include your name.